CITY OF FULLERTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Special Meeting City Council Chamber Monday, November 17, 2008

6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Russell called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE

Chair Russell led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present: Shawna Adam, Sueling Chen, Kathleen Dasney, Craig Russell, Kathleen

Shanfield, Nancy Spencer and Scott Stanford

Absent: None

Staff: Parks and Recreation Director Joe Felz; Parks and Recreation Manager

Judy Peterson; Parks Project Manager Hugo Curiel; Landscape Superintendent Dennis Quinlivan; Parks Project Specialist Doug Pickard;

Civil Engineer Hye Jin Lee

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT ITEMS (Items 1 - 3)

Commissioner Stanford MADE A MOTION and Commissioner Adam SECONDED the motion to approve the consent items with the minutes corrected as noted below.

AYES: Adam, Chen, Dasney, Russell, Shanfield, Spencer, Stanford

NOES: None ABSENT: None

The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

1. MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 13, 2008 COMMISSION MEETING

Vice Chair Dasney asked that the Minutes be corrected as follows: On Page 7, Deborah Richey's name should be spelled "Debora" and on Page 9 the name "Marion" Campbell should be "Mary" Campbell.

2. LANDSCAPE DIVISION MONTHLY REPORTS FOR OCTOBER 2008

Commissioner Spencer inquired about the Tree Division update of only 69 trees planted and 234 trees removed. Superintendent Quinlivan indicated residents are currently rejecting trees. He said that staff had formulated a mailing list with about 300 hundred trees and targeted Zone Three which has the least amount of trees per house. Commissioner Spencer asked where Zone Three was and Superintendent Quinlivan replied it was around Orangethorpe Avenue in the West Fullerton area. She indicated this needed to be addressed, and Superintendent Quinlivan suggested offering different species. He said residents do not seem to like the species the City is offering and, therefore, decline. He assured her 500 trees would be planted by the end of the fiscal year.

Commissioner Spencer noted City Council's concern regarding the policy allowing residents to opt out of having trees in front of their houses, which makes the streets appear odd with sometimes only one tree on a street in that area. Superintendent Quinlivan agreed that uniformity of species is preferred and added the mailer effort should result in an increase in tree planting. Commissioner Spencer asked if one particular species was being declined. He stated that residents seem to reject the work involved with leaf removal rather than considering energy savings in cooling their house and landscape improvement. She requested following up on this issue.

Vice Chair Dasney commented that the new fire and maintenance road at Brea Dam was timely and noted that a gate appeared to have been propped open due to work activity in the Gilman Park area. Superintendent Quinlivan stated there was a fire involving several palm trees over the weekend and the area would be cleaned up this week.

Commissioner Adam requested information regarding the trails off of Euclid as to bush/fire conditions. Superintendent Quinlivan noted that annual fire breaks are done near the Nora Kuttner Trail; he said more work could be done further up the Trail, but that would require extra funding. However, he noted extra work had been done near the area that Vice Chair Dasney was talking about earlier and that this required expensive hand work. Vice Chair Dasney asked if probation workers would be available for this type of hand work on the trails and possibly the Gilman Park creek area, and Superintendent Quinlivan said they are utilized for this.

3. BUILDING AND FACILITIES DIVISION MONTHLY REPORTS FOR OCTOBER 2008

Vice Chair Dasney said there was graffiti at Gilman Park on one of the drinking fountains. She also wanted to compliment Building and Facilities Superintendent Lyman Otley, who was not present, on the cleanliness of the restrooms. She made an additional comment that both the men and women's bathroom toilets require an extreme amount of effort to push the buttons to flush, which may contribute to non-flushing situations.

REGULAR BUSINESS (Items 4 – 12)

4. APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO LEMON PARK / MAPLE CENTER RENOVATION COMMITTEE

Director Felz introduced the agenda item, listing the names of the applicants recommended for the Lemon Park / Maple Center Ad Hoc Committees: Ernie Vejar,

Glenda Thompson and Suzy Hernandez as well as the appointment of Dr. Richard Ramirez as the liaison between that committee and the Lemon Park Mural Committee. He noted that the Mural Committee applicants would be chosen by the Public Art Committee. When Chair Russell asked who the Commission members on the Lemon Park Committee were, he was told they were commissioners Stanford and Chen, and that they would continue to serve through the planning process.

Vice Chair Dasney MADE A MOTION to approve the appointments to the Lemon Park/Maple Center Renovation Committee and Commissioner Chen SECONDED the motion. Chair Russell called for the vote.

AYES: Adam, Chen, Dasney, Russell, Shanfield, Spencer, Stanford

NOES: None ABSENT: None

The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

5. FULLERTON AQUATICS SPORTS TEAM (FAST) AGREEMENT RENEWAL

A Power Point presentation by Manager Judy Peterson provided a brief history of FAST and its offer in 2004 to operate the pool after the City, due to budget problems, was considering winter closure of the pool. She noted the current FAST operations include adult and youth swim lessons, recreation swim and private swim team programs. She said the City and FAST were at the end of their first four-year contract term and that the partnership had been extremely successful. She said the late Kevin Perry had been in charge of the program for the first 3½ years, and that Bill Jewell, in the audience, had been in charge since, and that one of FAST's remarkable accomplishments has been to build a year-round swim school with over 3,000 participants. Manager Peterson, showing highlights, noted that the proposed renewal is a "fine-tuning" of the previous agreement. The agreement would include two five-year terms; Year One rent at \$34,160 with a 5% increase annually; current public program hours to be maintained or exceeded; in a budget crisis, the City subsidy to FAST could be reduced and FAST's programming could be reduced accordingly; and increases in utilities of more than 10% would be shared by the City and FAST.

Manager Peterson introduced Coach Bill Jewel and FAST parent Lynn Rogers. Coach Jewell noted that he had retired from coaching at USC three years ago, and had worked with Kevin Perry for two and half years prior to this death. For the last six months, Coach Jewell has been the chief operating officer and head coach at FAST, and has also been involved in renegotiating the agreement which he considered a "win-win" situation. He described the community service FAST provides through regular swim programming, the free Swim Safe Program for those who can't afford lessons, and Special Olympics programs. He then asked for any questions about the operating agreement or the swim programs.

Commissioner Stanford asked how many of the 3,000 participants were from Fullerton; Coach Jewell said he didn't have exact figures but believed the majority, perhaps 75%, were from Fullerton. However, he also indicated that the complex does draw from outside the City of Fullerton which he saw as a benefit. Commissioner Stanford asked if those outside of the City had to pay higher fees, but Manager Peterson said that because County money was provided to build the pool and it is considered a regional pool, a non-

resident fee cannot be charged for the pool per the original agreement. Director Felz said staff felt comfortable with not charging extra for non-residents, given the programs that are benefiting students from the Fullerton School District and the fact that the great majority of users are Fullerton residents. Coach Jewell added that FAST has been expanding in double digits, but that no Fullerton resident has ever been turned away.

Vice Chair Dasney addressed the audience, noting the agendas were located in the boxes at each of the doors into the chamber. She also asked about the Aquatics Advisory Committee and who sat on it. Manager Peterson said the members included Lynn Rogers, Deborah Sanchez, Tony Bushala, Donald Hitzman, Director Felz and herself.

Vice Chair Dasney asked about FAST closure times and down times, wanted a general idea of last year's closures, and whether any of the down times were unusual. Manager Peterson stated that the closures varied greatly, that some were due to failure of and replacement of the older equipment; however, she said staff and FAST tries to keep on top of any concerns. She confirmed that there were no problems or closures that triggered a rent reduction.

Commissioner Chen asked about the costs of running the pool prior to the 2004 FAST agreement, and what the income was. Manager Peterson said it cost about \$700,000 annually to operate the pool prior to 2004 with about \$125,000 in revenue. When Commissioner Chen questioned the low revenue figure, Manager Peterson noted that the City had previously provided only recreation swim during the winter time and that it was very costly to operate a pool during the winter months.

Commissioner Chen said FAST clearly had a "fabulous program," but also asked if the City would be able to make more money if it leased out the pool facility instead. Director Felz noted the pool was a "recreational asset" for the City, so they were not looking at a profit model for leasing out the pool, and that the pool is subsidized because of the public services and free programs FAST provides. However, he said that the City is, in effect, leasing it to FAST who was best able to manage the pool. Director Felz also pointed out that while FAST pays perhaps minimal rent, its books are open for audit, and if there is more than a certain amount of revenue, a percentage of the excess would go to the City.

Commissioner Chen assured Director Felz that she was not interested in closing the pool or eliminating programs, just that she wanted to look at the facility and find out how much it would be worth to run a program that leased the facility. Director Felz said the Council had not requested open competition for operating the pool, and that there already was an existing partnership with FAST. He added that if a competitive request for proposals was made, the City would tend to receive proposals with a profit-oriented bias. He also said Commissioner Chen might feel more comfortable knowing that comparisons with other municipal pools have been made, and that FAST's operations run efficiently, but with the same if not more programs as those other municipal outdoor pools.

Vice Chair Dasney stated that, prior to FAST's management, the pool operations were "sinking," and that FAST had improved operating costs and programs at a much more efficient level. Commissioner Spencer agreed, saying FAST had, in fact, "rescued" the City, and that she had never heard anything negative about the program. Vice Chair Dasney expressed appreciation for the clause in Page 9 of the contract which provides for daily unpaid access for "no more than 60 participants of the City's Playground Programs

conducted in the summer months." Manager Peterson pointed out having a pool is a "huge responsibility," particularly during the summer, and that she can sleep at night knowing the pool is safe and that FAST has well-trained life guards.

Commissioner Stanford asked who pays for the insurance costs and Manager Peterson stated FAST maintains insurance coverage. Besides the swim lessons and FAST swim programs, Commissioner Stanford asked what recreational programs there were, and if the pool was being heated just for competitive swimmers. Coach Jewell said there were two programs, with the higher pool temperatures maintained for the younger children's lessons except during the winter months when there were no lessons. Manager Peterson added that FAST has maintained or exceeded the number of non-competitive swim hours that the City had before, with two hours daily at lunch during the non-summer months.

Commissioner Stanford asked about the number of daily participants, and Coach Jewell stated during the noon hour period, there were 25 plus participants, and that Masters Swimming is also offered during the early morning hours which wasn't offered before. Commissioner Stanford inquired if those participants were primarily Fullerton residents, and Coach Jewell answered "yes," noting that regular seniors have been invited to swim during that time as well and that one Masters participant, Tim Buckley, donated nearly \$40,000 towards the score board last year.

Commissioner Adam asked if there were evening recreational swim hours for those unable to attend in the morning or at lunch. Coach Jewell said Tuesday and Thursday evenings are open for Masters swimming for 1-¼ hours, with five lanes and about 10 participants. Manager Peterson noted that FAST had been involved with their swim teams at the pool well before 2004, but had then offered to provide other programs for kids and adults to benefit the community. Coach Jewell said he remembered that FAST started at the City's pool since the mid-1970's, and that some of the most well-known coaches have worked at the pool. He also compared the pool operations and costs to another program in Palm Springs, noting that this other program pays about 10% of FAST's rent and keeps all the profits for themselves.

Vice Chair Dasney said the proposed agreement states that the City will provide pool covers, and asked if the City still needed to provide those covers. Manager Peterson stated the City already provided the covers, so Vice Chair Dasney said the agreement wording might need to be corrected on Page 13. On Exhibit 3, Base Programming, Item 2.1, Manager Peterson confirmed the timeline was correct. Regarding Page 11, 3.11, Vice Chair Dasney said the City might want to have the option to offer aquatics programs at other facilities, in case the need arose.

Commissioner Adam asked what happens when the number of Summer Playground Program participants exceeds the 60 required per the contract, and Manager Peterson said some children go to the Lemon Park spray pool if they are unable to swim so there wasn't a problem, and that this was the same number that the City used to have when they operated the pool. Commissioner Adam reiterated that the 60 participant maximum requirement didn't seem sufficient to serve all the children who might want to swim in the Summer Playground Program.

Director Felz clarified about the non-competitive clause in Item 3.11 of the contract, saying that the City could have their summer program kids go to the beach, for example, and

that the clause just prohibited the City from getting into any other "major initiative" or agreement regarding aquatics programming.

Commissioner Stanford asked about how this clause would relate to any potential expansion of the Community Center which might include a pool, and Director Felz said there could be a contract amendment after the first five years; however, he agreed with Chair Russell that the City was not interested in operating a pool, and recognized the value of the FAST partnership.

Commissioner Shanfield asked about the second of the two five-year terms, and whether this would happen automatically. Director Felz said the two five-year terms was new for the City, and was a middle ground between the much longer 20 or 30 year terms previously used a long time ago and the more recent two or three year terms developed. It was also clarified that if, after five years, there are any issues or concerns with the contract, those could be addressed in the next five year term; otherwise the agreement would be automatically renewed.

Coach Jewell described the improvements to the swim programs, and said this year it appears the City might enjoy a little profit. However, he said the facility does have a maximum it can accommodate, although they were not yet at maximum capacity. Addressing the 60 youth Summer Playground Program requirement, Coach Jewell said that, regardless of the maximum number required, FAST would serve all the youth who wanted to swim, and that they would "make it work."

Chair Russell stated that the FAST/City partnership was "one of the great relationships that we have." He noted that previous to FAST's management, there were always complaints and petitions to the Commission about pool hours and the lessons, noting that most cities don't do as good a job managing a pool. He felt that experts were running the pool now, that the Commission was not receiving complaints anymore, that the residents were enjoying the pool, and that FAST has a very good reputation; hence, he was fully supporting FAST and the partnership. Vice Chair Dasney agreed.

Commissioner Stanford MADE A MOTION to recommend approval of the proposed FAST agreement to City Council as outlined in the agenda letter and Commissioner Adam SECONDED the motion. Chair Russell called for the vote.

AYES: Adam, Chen, Dasney, Russell, Shanfield, Spencer, Stanford

NOES: None ABSENT: None

The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

6. GILMAN PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Director Felz presented a Power Point review of the proposed Gilman Park renovations regarding playground replacement and the master plan, saying staff was returning to Commission with this issue on direction of City Council. Based on recent research, staff also discovered some conditions that needed to be reviewed. He provided a brief orientation of Gilman Park, saying it was built as an "adventure park" in the early 70's, and included a wild area with a rustic feel and wood play equipment.

Director Felz noted that in February 2007, the Commission approved two phases including replacement of the playground and a master plan of the park, and this was approved by Council in April 2007. From February 2007 to April 2007, some consultants did begin developing a conceptual plan and studies without input from other departments or neighbors. In July 2007, funding of \$250,000 was approved, mostly for playground replacement.

In December 2007, staff including Director Felz and Parks Project Manager Hugo Curiel, began meetings with neighbors. In April 2008 the landscape architecture firm of Hirsch and Associates was also hired, and in May 2008, a neighborhood meeting was held with initial concept plans and ideas provided. The meeting revealed further questions about the placement of the playground, slope failure and stability issues related to a private developer, and water retention occurrences which were more significant than staff had originally thought.

Director Felz said staff reviewed and researched the slope failure with input from Gilman neighbors. He said the research indicated this would not impact this particular playground replacement and that minor grading could be done.

The second and greater area of concern was the water retention, Director Felz said. There was more water retention than staff was originally assuming even though the park was considered a water retention basin as are the Sports Complex, Brea Dam recreational area, Hiltscher Park and Craig Regional Park. Staff had also assumed water levels could rise to the area of the playground, but that this would only occasionally occur and that with proper maintenance to keep the storm drains cleared, this would eliminate any real flooding problems. However, this assumption proved incorrect as neighbors provided strong evidence of flooding which was not due to the storm drains being clogged. Staff also reviewed annual rain fall which indicated various flooding levels.

Director Felz said that with the Engineering Department's and Civil Engineer Hye-Jin Lee's primary research, the Parks and Recreation Department discovered there was a development of 474 homes on 132 acres called Amber Hill, now known as Parkhurst, which began in the late 1980's, at Rolling Hills and Placentia Avenue, where the Imperial Golf Course used to be. The project was approved in 1991 and not built until 2001, but since the development, the water runoff into Gilman Park was much greater without the golf course acting as a runoff basin. Of the six years following, four were drought years, thus, only those years with significant rain produced the severe flooding seen.

Because of this water retention situation, Director Felz said staff was no longer recommending playground replacement as originally conceived, but was recommending moving forward with the master plan process. He noted that commissioners are already named to the Gilman Park committee, but as with other community projects, neighbors would also be appointed to the committee. With this information, Commission, staff and neighbors would be able to properly address concerns and move forward with their plans. Director Felz said that he, Parks Project Manager Curiel and Pat Hirsch of Hirsch and Associates would be happy to answer Commissioner questions.

Chair Russell acknowledged the members of the audience interested in the Gilman Park item, and explained the meeting protocol in which commissioner would first ask questions and comment, and then the meeting would be open for public comment. Commissioner Adam, noting she was a Gilman Park Committee member, and given the information on

flooding, asked where the playground would be located. Director Felz stated the Committee would start with a clean slate and that the playground location would be determined with the assistance of the neighborhood residents. Commissioner Adam questioned the source of the flooding problem and if the pipes were too small in diameter. Director Felz stated that there is an existing condition wherein the park operates as part of the flood control system, and that any changes to the underground storm system would be prohibitively expensive and would have to be a separate project. Instead, the water retention at Gilman Park would be taken into consideration and worked around when developing the master plan.

Commissioner Shanfield asked if the project developer of Parkhurst should have anticipated the problem, and if an environmental impact report had been done. Director Felz said the developer had all the necessary approvals and documentation. Vice Chair Dasney stated action needed to be taken to resolve this problem, whether it was by Orange County Flood Control or the City, and that she had seen the flooding where garages and curbs had to be sandbagged. Director Felz said that, as frustrating as this problem was, they would not be able to fix it tonight, and the Department would have to focus on moving forward with the master plan. However, he said there might be some way to provide a small measure of relief of the flooding through a minor fix of the inlet.

Chair Russell agreed that the Commission had to focus on the options today for the Gilman Park improvements. He said all the members were on the Commission when this project first came through, and that a playground was approved because those attending seemed to want one, and the location was suggested by staff. He asked if it would be possible to go forward with the funded project and put the playground elsewhere. Director Felz said there was no other obvious place for placement, although master planning might identify another area. He said with the challenges of security, restrooms, vandalism, and activating the park, it would be difficult to install a playground and try to plan around it. He remarked that this project was definitely "the art of compromise" to try to get the best project in the end.

Commissioner Chen asked what the area of notification for the project was, and Director Felz stated it was at least a 300' residence notification, and that staff goes well beyond the legal requirements. He confirmed with her that the bulk of the \$250,000 budget remained. She then asked if there was a schedule for the master plan, but Director Felz said that schedule had been halted so staff could concentrate on completing the playground project, and then to research the flooding issues. However, now, staff could fast-track the master plan to get concept plans in nine months although there might be mitigating factors such as revising concept plans based on input from the neighbors.

Commissioner Shanfield asked if there would be a budget for the master plan, and Director Felz said they would use part of the \$250,000. Vice Chair Dasney stated one of the problems is that master plans often sit on shelves until there is funding which often times doesn't happen, or when it does, it needs to be redone, e.g. Hillcrest Park. While she was in favor of master plans, she wanted to make sure the plan would be "usable soon." Director Felz said there was a high priority for master planning Gilman Park and although there wasn't any construction funding at this time, there was a great interest to provide some less expensive corrections.

Chair Russell asked for public comment:

Mary Bodson, Resident on Eucalyptus Drive – Lives on a street that floods but is on the higher end so she doesn't have a problem. Said she was mainly here to thank the Commission for listening to their issues. Regarding the master plan, she thought holding off on the playground until they know the placement better was a good idea. She noted that all the playgrounds had been vandalized; however, she would like to see a new playground for the children.

Chair Russell thanked Ms. Bodson for her kind comments but thought they didn't deserve any thanks because this had been an issue since he first became a commissioner 11 years ago.

Christina Marr, Resident on Cambridge – Lives on the opposite end of the park from Ms. Bodson, near the restrooms, and while there were no flooding issues, said the playgrounds were hidden and not visible, hence the problems with vandalism. She said they call the police nightly even though there isn't supposed to be anyone in the park. Ms. Marr said she was told that if the portion of the park near her was made handicapped accessible, all of the park would have to be made handicapped accessible which was why that area couldn't just be fixed. Ms. Marr thought that area might be a possibility for a playground although the original site, which is visible to many more homes, did make more sense for a playground.

Suzanne Hofstetter, 2425 Deer Park Drive — Does not live directly next to the park but uses it for exercising and getting out with her three-year old son. She said she began speaking with the Parks and Recreation Department two years ago as she was looking forward to a place for her son to play. She said she understood the delays, and while accepting the need for a master plan, hoped a playground would be installed soon. Expressed appreciation for those who were at tonight's and previous meetings, but said there was apathy in the neighborhood, partly because the park is not attractive, without even a bench for gatherings. She said she liked the rustic aspect of the park, but asked for some balance with more amenities. She added that the area hidden by the trees has a lot of litter and was "pretty disgusting." Ms. Hofstetter said she was upset about the Parkhurst development, and thought someone might have been "closing their eyes along the way and just hoping for the best." She supported a committee to go forward with the park plans, and asked that her and others' voices would be heard.

Grace Williams, 2895 Treeview Place – Lives near the bottom of Gilman Park where there was a fire recently. She said they have a lot of problems with people coming and partying at night. She said she hasn't been able to sleep for the last couple of nights, because she is the one who discovered the trees on fire at Gilman Park at 2 a.m. She said they had to run around waking up their neighbors, and later learned the fire was probably arson. She said the security concern is good, but as it now stands, Gilman Park is not a family park, and that it is hard to live by this park because of these issues. She said she would like to have more management of this park with more ranger presence to monitor and deter certain activities.

As there were no other speakers, Chair Russell brought the matter back to the Commission. Commissioner Spencer asked whether putting playground in might create an attractive nuisance that would bring undesirable people to the area. Commissioner Adam said kids had burned down the wood play equipment before which was why the playground was to be installed where it was visible to the neighbors. Vice Chair Dasney noted that the vandals are there now, even without a playground. Commissioner Spencer

asked if all the neighbors supported the playground. Commissioner Chen said when she visited the park, it seemed the wilderness was intentional and that the residents enjoyed it; however, tonight, it appeared there was more of a security concern for this park. She suggested more neighborhood input would be helpful to determine if the rustic look or the more open look was more important. Director Felz said security was the main reason the playground site at Eucalyptus was chosen, noting the other two playground site options were much more hidden.

Commissioner Adam MADE A MOTION and Commissioner Chen SECONDED the motion to review the proposed Gilman renovations and to proceed with the Master Plan. Chair Russell called for the vote.

AYES: Adam, Chen, Dasney, Russell, Shanfield, Spencer, Stanford

NOES: None ABSENT: None

The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

When Vice Chair Dasney asked, Director Felz confirmed staff would be recruiting several neighbors for the Gilman Park Ad Hoc Committee very soon. She also asked, if there was enough early interest in moving the playground near Hartford Street, whether a playground could be installed soon, or if the City would be committed to completing the Master Plan and forgetting the playground. Director Felz said that if a playground in a certain location came out of the master planning process as an early Phase I, it could be done.

7. INDEPENDENCE PARK / JANET EVANS SWIM COMPLEX CIP CHANGE OF PROJECT SCOPE

Manager Peterson presented the need for a change in the project scope from air conditioning in the Independence Park swim complex locker room to renovations and safety upgrades throughout the entire facility. She said over the two summers after facility upgrades were made, there haven't been any complaints about the lack of air conditioning in the locker rooms and the air circulation has been good. Instead, since there were more pressing repairs needed, these were being requested, with FAST's agreement and approval.

Manager Peterson provided a Power Point presentation showing the areas of need including the west parking lot planters which need irrigation pipes replaced, and badly cracked concrete with portions missing, besides being a tripping hazard. At the entry door to the gym, the ground is hard-packed dirt, the fencing around the park has rust and a large double gate needs to be replaced. Director Felz said it is somewhat unusual to change a capital project, and that this item, if recommended by Commission, would next go to Council for approval to shift the funds. Chair Russell asked for more details on the air conditioning project, which Manager Peterson provided, and Director Felz further explained that it was approved as part of the capital project two years ago as a small project to finish off the pool.

Commissioner Chen MADE A MOTION and Vice Chair Dasney SECONDED the motion to recommend to City Council the change in the Independence Park / Janet Evans CIP

project scope from air conditioning to renovations and safety upgrades as outlined in the agenda letter. Chair Russell called for the vote.

AYES: Adam, Chen, Dasney, Russell, Shanfield, Spencer, Stanford

NOES: None ABSENT: None

The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

8. AMENDED MEMORIAL TREE AND BENCH DONATION POLICY

Director Felz turned the meeting over to Parks Project Specialist Douglas Pickard to present the proposed amendments to the policy for donating memorial trees and benches in City parks. Specialist Pickard noted that staff had brought the existing Memorial Tree and Bench Policy to Commission last month to allow for a wider range of wordings and options for the memorial plaques. Under Commission direction, staff was returning tonight with additional wording and options. He said the current program allows for two wordings on a 3" x 5" plaque. Besides those choices, staff is proposing ten additional wordings as listed in the agenda packet.

Specialist Pickard said staff was proposing further options to the policy: Birth and death dates, titles, ranks, degrees, and a service organization affiliation such as an armed services branch, modification of the approved wording at staff's discretion, and plaque size change to be as large as 4" x 12", depending on the wording and bench style.

Commissioner Shanfield asked if there was only one bench style, but Specialist Pickard said his understanding was that the park would dictate the style of the bench. Commissioner Stanford asked about titles and if any professional designations would be allowed, e.g., Attorney at Law, Insurance Agent, and Specialist Pickard referred to the agenda letter, saying affiliation with military, police, fire, educational and governmental organizations would be recognized. Commissioner Stanford wondered if this was fair for individuals not affiliated with those organizations, and Director Felz said the Commissioner Stanford said he was more comfortable with fewer affiliations. He said he also had similar concerns with the modifications to the list of words which would make consistency more difficult. Director Felz said, likewise, just the 10 additions could be approved. Chair Russell agreed with Commissioner Stanford's comments.

Vice Chair Dasney asked if the intent of the suggested phrase "In Celebration of (name)," was for a birthday, for example, or if it was meant to honor a death, in which case, it should read "In Celebration of the Life of (Name)."

Commissioner Adam wondered if the plaques could be applied to pets and Specialist Pickard said the Policy states it should be a person. Vice Chair asked if the choice "In Grateful Appreciation to" should read "In Grateful Appreciation of" and several suggestions were made to correct this. Commissioner Spencer asked if there were complaints regarding the existing policy, and Director Felz replied that a recent bench donation generated inquiries, hence, staff reviewed the policy and noticed that the wording did seem rather restrictive. Commissioner Shanfield said the bench for Alex Buck's bench has been installed, that the family is very happy, and invites everyone to sit on the bench and admire the view.

Commissioner Stanford MADE A MOTION and Commissioner Shanfield SECONDED the motion to recommend to City Council amendment of Resolution No. 9701, the Memorial Bench and Tree Resolution, as follows: Leave the current two wording choices, add the 10 additional wordings suggested and add "/of" to the end of the phrase "In Grateful Appreciation to (Name)," allow birth and death dates, add title and rank of recognized military service branches, do not allow modification of phrases, and allow for plaques to be appropriately sized up to 4" x 12", depending on the bench style and plaque wording.

Chair Russell called for the vote.

AYES: Adam, Chen, Dasney, Russell, Shanfield, Spencer, Stanford

NOES: None ABSENT: None

The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

9. REPORT ON CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

Director Felz reported on the following City Council agenda items related to the Parks and Recreation Department:

- The "Lights On After School" Proclamation was presented to the City's After School Program and partners Fullerton School District, YMCA and Boys & Girls Club, and two days later, the Afterschool Program held a very successful event with several hundred students and families participating.
- The City Signage Program agenda item, which combined several projects from different departments and divisions, was continued by Council to seek further community input. The Lemon Overpass and small City population signs will come back to the Commission for review by the Council. The monument project referred to in this agenda item was an Engineering project for large City entry signs.
- A very good Gang Diversion update was provided to Council by the After School Program partners Fullerton School District, YMCA and Boys & Girls Club.
- A grant from USC to help prevent seniors falling was approved.
- An Orange County Flyers proposal for use of Duane Winters Field was discussed in Closed Session. A short-term agreement discussed was not feasible for them, but the Council approved an exclusive but very preliminary long-term negotiating agreement which would come through Commission. While this agreement would have to be considered in the Civic Center plans, Director Felz said the plans would not be held up by the Flyers and would not impact Pony Baseball at Amerige Park.
- The Richman Park Community Center Addition was dedicated and Gilbert Community Center will be dedicated in a couple of weeks. Director Felz said the company who built the Richman modular unit has declared bankruptcy so this will impact the Richman addition, but staff is committed to getting the building complete and operating.

10. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Director Felz said the Night in Fullerton event was very successful as was the calendar move to the Fall. The front end planning and staging for the Veteran's Day event also went well. Vice Chair Dasney complimented Director Felz on including the veterans from Iraq and Vietnam. He said staff takes the lead from the American Legion and Marilyn Harris who is a "great advisor," and is the director of the event.

11. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Shanfield noted that after the elections, the Council stayed the same but that she was asked to complete an application for a renewal of her Commission position. She asked if they would also be interviewed or if it was up to the discretion of the council member. Director Felz said one definitely needs to apply for reappointment but that he believed it was up to the discretion of the council member how to proceed from there. He noted that the end date of the appointments was December 31st or until the council makes its selections. The practice recently was that the new appointments happened in January or February.

Commissioner Adam praised staff for their work at Night in Fullerton and wanted to know how the count was made. She felt there was less attendance for the event as compared to previous years and that it was about the same as for a Market night. Director Felz indicated the formula is based on numbers taken at a particular time, saying he wasn't sure if the published number of 8,500 came from Cultural Arts and Events Division Manager Dannielle Mauk or from police estimates. He said that number was fairly conservative for an event, given the large estimates from the Fox Theatre. The early hours were slow, but the later hours indicated there was more attendance spread around 10 or 12 sites over the course of the evening.

Commissioner Adam questioned if 7% of the Fullerton population attending made the event worthwhile. Director Felz noted that as the sites were responsible for their own events, this reduced the burden and cost for the Parks and Recreation Department, although it is also a judgment whether something was worthwhile. He also pointed out that the event was moved to the fall, and the date was not Manager Mauk's decision. Commissioner Adam said others remarked that there wasn't sufficient advertising including no banner over Harbor Boulevard. Director Felz said that marketing an event that has moved is very difficult and requires much more advertising, plus First Night requires input from 10 to 12 organizations. He said staff appreciates the commissioner comments and staff could always improve, however, overall, the numbers were not necessarily low.

Commissioner Shanfield asked if the Fire Department was making any recommendation on the "no smoking" areas. Director Felz said he just received word that it would be an additional two months before the State will come up with the high fire zones. Thus, the Fire Department is recommending moving forward as is the City Manager, and that any policy developed would include a phrase that it would be subject to conditions placed by the State. He said there is a big battle at the State level regarding a possible change for fire clearances around houses from 30 to 100 feet.

Commissioner Shanfield asked about the artificial turf issue, and Director Felz said it would go to Council with Commission's recommendations and findings on December 16th along with user group input and staff analysis. He said the project would be presented to Council for approval which will include, initially, natural turf because that was what was on the budget. Synthetic turf will then be presented as a recommended alternative. Commissioner Shanfield asked if there could be an optional vendor as she had heard it was the vendor that was the problem. Director Felz said while he could go into as much detail as the commissioners would like, he just wanted to say that the characterizations of the vendor in the local paper were misleading.

Commissioner Chen noted that it was sad that Night in Fullerton was moved from the usual date in April as she went every year with her girls to Night in Fullerton. However, she appreciated that the arts in Fullerton were still being celebrated.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair	Russel	l adjourned	d the meetin	ig at 9:05	p.m.

Respectfully submitte	d,
Joe Felz, Secretary	